

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

High Level International Conference

Minsk, 9 October 2018

Dear Colleagues and friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the OSCE for organizing this important Conference and for inviting me to address it.

Over the past two decades, we have witnessed exponential technological development.

Rapidly evolving fields such as artificial intelligence, blockchain and biotechnology have the potential to deliver great benefits for the world.

Innovations in information and communication technologies have driven economic

Although terrorists have not yet acquired the expertise and tools to launch large-scale cyber-attacks on critical national infrastructure, they may develop this capability in the future, with potentially devastating consequences.

The risks we cal

They expressed serious concern at the widespread exploitation of the Internet by terrorists to spread their evil ideologies and coordinate their heinous activities.

In his concluding remarks, the United Nations Secretary-General welcomed the establishment of the 'Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism' and other similar partnerships to prevent the spread of extremist content online.

But he urged the international community to do more to identify and remove terrorist

My Office will also launch a project to enhance international cooperation on cyber security and to support the efforts of Member States in Africa and South and South East Asia to enhance their prevention, legislation, investigation, and prosecution capabilities.

Taking an “All-of-UN” approach, we will be implementing this project with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, the frontline against terrorism is increasingly in cyberspace – on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, VKontakte and many other alternatives.

To win this war, we must join forces and act together to prevent and curb the risks of terrorist abuse of digital technologies, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression.

It is important to have enhanced coordination and collaboration between countries. In this regard we welcome the intention of the Republic of Belarus to keep its leader position in countering the threat of terrorism in cyberspace. This is an obvious contribution to the realization of agreements reached at the above-mentioned High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

Of utmost importance is to strengthen coordination between states, private sector, civil society and religious organizations.

We also need to empower the victims and survivors of terrorism, who are extremely powerful and credible messengers. Their experiences put a human face to the impact of terrorism and help to counter the warped narratives of terrorists and violent extremists.

Dear Colleagues,

We have a very important task in hand. We will have to enhance common work in order to eradicate the threat of terrorism in cyberspace.

I wish you all the luck in the work of the Conference.

Thank you for your attention.